1	2	3	4
12.	Maharashtra	241371	992704
13.	Orissa	792	3321
14.	Punjab	3661	23620
15.	Rajasthan	4032	33464
16.	Tamil Nadu	75467	381115
17.	Uttar Pradesh	25135	65993
18.	West Bengal	952	5459
19.	Delhi	124	1102
20.	Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Mizoram Meghalaya, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura	0	0
	UNION TERRITORY		
21.	Chandigarh	11	42
22.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	38	962
23.	Pondicherry	117	830
24.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Daman & Diu and Lakshadweep	0	0
	TOTAL	463518	2082895

Preservation and promotion of traditional industries of Assam

765. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has taken any steps to preserve and promote the traditional industries of handicrafts at Sartherbari in the district of Barpeta and textile industries (Handloom) at Sualkuchi in the district of Kamrup (Rural) Assam;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. For preservation and promotion of traditional industries of handicrafts in the country, including in the State of Assam, the various schemes include Ambedkar Hastshilp Vikas Yojana for Integrated development of identified craft clusters; Marketing Support Scheme; Design & Technology upgradation Scheme; Human Resource Development; Research & Development & Handicraft Artisans Comprehensive Welfare Scheme.

So far as the Sartherbari in the district of Barpeta is concerned, a financial assistance of Rs. 1.06 Crs. has been sanctioned in the last five years and released to the various organizations

for implementing various promotional activities, which include, skill upgradation, design & technology upgradation, exhibitions, craft bazars, printing of catalogue, folders and setting up of common facility center. This has resulted in benefiting 760 handicraft artisans.

For preserving and promoting the textile handloom sector in the country include in the State of Assam, the schemes include Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme, Marketing & Export Promotion Scheme, Mill Gate Price Scheme, Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme and Diversified Handloom Development Scheme for the welfare of handloom weavers. These schemes/programmes facilitate in enhancing the production, productivity and efficiency of the handloom sector and enhance the income and socio-economic status of the weavers by upgrading their skills and providing infrastructural input and marketing support. During the year 2007, a sum of Rs. 9.28 crore has been released so far to Government of Assam under various schemes.

(c) Does not arise.

Package for textile/handicraft exporting community

766. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to provide an appropriate package for the textile/handicraft exporting community to check appreciating rupee with a view to compensate them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also proposed to provide special fiscal benefits to the above sector at par wtih agriculture sector; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The Government is seized of the submissions of textiles export promotion councils and other associations, which attribute the decline in India's textile exports to the recent appreciation in the value of the Indian rupee vis-a-vis the US dollar. The Government has introduced certain measures to provide relief to the affected textiles and handicrafts exporters, which include an increase in Duty Entitlement Pass Book and Duty Drawback rates, exemption from service tax on select services, reduction in interest rates of pre-shipment and post-shipment credit and faster clearance of arrears of terminal excise duties and Central Sales Tax.

(c) and (d) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

Seal of excellence by UNESCO to traditional handicraft products

767. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UNESCO has awarded the Seal of Excellence to traditional handicraft products including 12 from India;